

A NEW LOOK ON THE WAY

Getting tired of having to scroll through *The Dispatch* to find the articles you want to read? Well those days will soon be over as next month we will be changing our format. You will still receive a monthly email letting you know when the latest issue is available; however, the new format will allow you to more easily find the articles in which you are most interested. The new format will list articles and the introduction to each article. If you wish to read the entire text, click on that particular article's link.

"This is a more efficient way to provide DPA employees with news about the Department, a little more user-friendly," said DPA Deputy Executive Director Paul Farley. "I hope folks will enjoy the new format and agree that it is an improvement."

Many thanks to Linda Watson and Susan Barry for their hard work in converting *The Dispatch* into this new format. It is through their diligence and willingness to find solutions that we are able to continue to improve DPA Publications.



Susan Barry (left) and Linda Watson have put in a great deal of work on the new *Dispatch* format.



GETTING TO KNOW... KRUZ WATKINS

What is your Title?

Assistant to the Executive Director,
DPA & CDLE, Labor Relations Officer,
Division of Labor, CDLE.

What do you do - what does your job involve?

Assisting Jeff Wells in the administration of DPA and CDLE. As the Labor Relations Officer, I administer the Labor Peace Act and its provisions within the State. I conduct union elections, assist in unfair labor practice hearings, and investigate allegations of unfair labor practices.

How long have you been doing this job?

About two years with CDLE and four months with DPA.

What did you do previously?

I spent 30 years in the army as a cook, infantryman, drill sergeant, and recruiter.

What is your favorite part of your job?

Helping people with the State of Colorado.

Where were you born?

San Francisco, CA, so I'm not a Colorado native.

What is your favorite pastime or hobby?

Fly-fishing and gardening by default; my wife is a Master Gardener for Jefferson County. (Master Gardeners are volunteers who undergo extensive training and are under the supervision of County Extension Agents. They provide gardening information to the public through plant clinics, classes, workshops, etc. that is specific to the area in which they work.)

Who are your personal heroes?

Benjamin Franklin because he could do just about anything he set his mind to and Teddy Roosevelt because he did what he thought was right and didn't worry about it.

What is something no one at work knows about you?

I was an Executive Chef for Holiday Inn Incorporated for a short period of time.

Who would you like to see featured in the employee highlight section of the *Dispatch*? Is there someone you interact with all the time, but never meet face to face? Send your suggests to DPAComments@state.co.us and we will try to feature them in an upcoming issue.

KUDOS

Rick Malinowski,

Just a quick note of thanks to you and your staff.

I have been with the State now approximately three months and have reached a milestone for the computer migration and conversion (CMAC) project, that being the approval and pricing of the CMAC MNT retailer network. Prior to this milestone my perception of the relationship between our two agencies was less than satisfactory.

I do not believe that is the case today and going forward in the future under my tenure. I cannot express my gratitude enough for the outstanding work on the behalf of **Paul Nelson, Phil Bisant, John Clark, and Lorilie McCann.**

Their efforts have enabled the DOR/Lottery to go forward with a precise budgetary figure for a network solution that is far superior to the one in place for the Lottery today. It probably helps that I am able to speak the same language as you folks but nonetheless, the credit goes to you and your staff.

Please let them know I am grateful for their outstanding efforts.

Thanks,

Al Lipa
Director of Technology Services and Support
Colorado Lottery

I appreciate **Ron Keller.** He's always willing to help out even if he doesn't know the answer, he finds out. - Rare and great qualities.

Thirza A. Kennedy

Hi **George (Orlowski),**

Thank you so much for the prompt follow-up and clarification. I very much appreciate all of your assistance. It is a delight to work with such a responsive and thorough department (State Archives.)

Elisabeth Hawkins

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH DHR's BRAD MALLON

Jeff Schutt received a request to "loan" a staff member for a few days to assist with an investigation for the City and County of Denver, Department of Human Services. Brad agreed to help out and this "loan" turned out to be a six-week commitment, demanding close



Brad Mallon (left) was presented with his certificate by Deputy Executive Director Paul Farley.

to full-time work. During this time, Brad did a remarkable job balancing the requirements of this special assignment and his regular workforce and staffing consultant responsibilities. In addition, as he wrapped up the investigation he began to consider how he could use this experience as a training/learning exercise for state HR professionals, supervisors, and managers.

"Brad has been truly remarkable in his commitment to the investigation. He has had to interview over 40 people, documented the investigation, worked with attorneys, coordinated with Denver, and responded to numerous inquiries about the case. Brad has been highly professional every step of the way. He has treated the witnesses with dignity and respect. People who have refused in the past to come forward have been willing to talk to him. His write up on the case has been thorough and extremely helpful," said Roxane White with the Denver, Department of Human Services.

Brad exceeded expectations by accepting this extra assignment and performing with a high level of professionalism and clear demonstration of effective interagency collaboration. Our customers span a broad spectrum and we must be prepared, as Brad was, to provide to each of them the highest quality of care and service.

Other Nominees: **Roslyn McMillon, Dianne Ferris,** and **Donna Childers** of DOAH who were key contributors to the successful presentation of DOAH's third annual ethics training for executive branch adjudicators; **Jill Elggren** of DCS for her commitment and dedication with the recent PDQ project; **Mark Fowler** of DoIT for taking on a project that has been awaiting a committed project leader for two years; **Ric Conard** of DFP for his dedicated efforts toward improving the public safety and ensuring preservation of the State Capitol Building.



Embassy of the Republic of Armenia

Office of the Ambassador

January 27, 2004

Mr. Ken Allikian
Department of Personnel and Administration
1600 Broadway, #1030
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Mr. Allikian:

Please accept my congratulations on outstanding and productive thirty years in public service with the State of Colorado. Your community activism and patriotism have been a source of pride to the Armenian community in Colorado and beyond. Your impeccable record of public service in Colorado and dedication to your ancestral homeland Armenia are emblematic of strong relations between the United States and the Republic of Armenia, which are based on common history and shared values.

I know that you have been an ardent advocate for the recognition and remembrance of the Armenian Genocide, working successfully for the passage of the resolution designating April 24 of each year as a Day of Remembrance of the Armenian Genocide by the Colorado General Assembly. I want to especially thank you for leading the efforts to establish a permanent monument on the grounds of the Colorado State Capitol in memory of the victims of the Genocide and being instrumental in organizing annual observances and other events to raise public awareness of this critical issue.

Even as you complete your public service, I know that your dedication and community activism will continue unabated. On behalf of the Embassy of the Republic of Armenia, I want to convey my appreciation and gratitude to you for your devoted public service, and I look forward to working together with you to further strengthen the relations between Armenia and the United States and promote issues of concern to Armenia and the Armenian-American community.

Sincerely yours,

Arman Kirakossian
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

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FASTER THAN A SPEEDING BULLET

BY PAUL FARLEY

I was going through some boxes in the basement the other day (I never know what the result of this may be – see “So Predictable,” March 2003 issue). This time I ran across some old comic books I had collected when I was a kid (much longer ago than I dare remember), and I was reminded of the age-old debate about who’s the fastest man alive: The Flash, or Superman, both of whom were supposed to be able to reach the speed of sound. But in fact, it’s actually neither one; it’s Joe Kittinger.

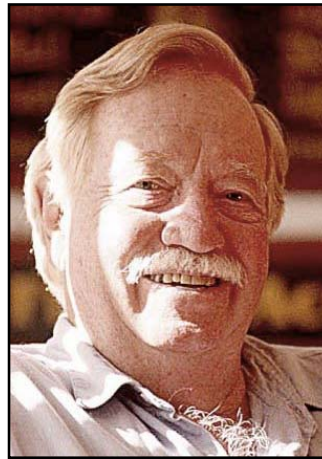
As a boy, Kittinger built model airplanes and often rode his bike to the nearby airport, where he talked pilots into giving him free rides. He joined the Air Force in 1949, and was soon flying experimental aircraft for NATO. Later, he was part of a research program in the New Mexico desert which studied how gravitational stress affects the human body. Kittinger became certified as a balloon pilot, helicopter pilot, and paratrooper, and underwent claustrophobia trials in test capsules for 24 hours at a time. Because of his clandestine work there, he is also linked to the “Roswell Incident,” identified by eyewitnesses as the “red-haired captain.” Kittinger says the “alien” that people saw taken away by an ambulance was actually one of his teammates injured in a balloon crash.

In 1957, he joined Project Manhigh, studying cosmic radiation and pilot escape systems in a 25-story-high balloon with a pressurized capsule. Kittinger piloted the balloon to a height of 18 miles, breaking a world record for altitude on a manned balloon flight. The experiment led to the design of the Mercury capsule, and America’s first manned space flights.

The next year, he joined Project Excelsior, which tested emergency bailout methods at extremely high altitudes. Nobody knew for sure if a man could survive such a fall – freezing temperatures, thin air, and a near vacuum in which blood would boil – but Kittinger volunteered. In November 1959, Kittinger jumped from almost 15 miles high in an experimental space suit. However, his first parachute deployed too soon and became entangled around his neck. Unconscious, Kittinger spiraled downward, spinning out of control, until he was saved at the last minute when his second parachute automatically opened. Undeterred, Kittinger returned for another jump only a month later.

Kittinger made his final jump on August 16, 1960. After ascending to an altitude of almost 20 miles – at the very edge of space – he prayed “Lord, take care of me now” and stepped out. He shot downward at 714 mph, literally falling faster than a speeding bullet and becoming the first

man to go supersonic without an aircraft. “I had absolutely no sense of the speed,” Kittinger said. “It was a helluva long way down, but the quickest way to get there.” Landing near Alamogordo, New Mexico, he again walked away unhurt; but this time he also had three new world records – highest open-gondola balloon ride, longest parachute descent, and longest freefall (4 minutes, 36 seconds).



Joe Kittinger

Kittinger continued his balloon experiments for another two years, then volunteered for combat duty. He served three tours in Vietnam, flying 483 missions, but was shot down just four days short before he was to leave. He spent the next eleven months imprisoned at the infamous “Hanoi Hilton,” where he survived torture and solitary confinement. After retiring from the Air Force in 1978, Kittinger began ballooning across the country.

In September 1984, he became the first person to complete a solo transatlantic balloon flight, making the 3,500 mile trip from Caribou, Maine to Montenotte, Italy, in 86 hours.

Although he has now retired, for more than 50 years Joe Kittinger was a space pioneer, test pilot, combat aviator, world record holder in helium balloons – and the fastest man alive.

Background information taken from Master Sgt. Pat McKenna, “Leap of Faith,” in Airman, published by the U.S. Air Force News Agency (Dec. 1999).

THIS AND THAT:

- In the summer of 1947, there were a number of UFO sightings in the United States, and in early July, something crashed near Roswell, New Mexico. A local rancher noticed unusual pieces of metal debris scattered over a large area, and a shallow trench, several hundred feet long, gouged into the ground. A few days later, the Air Force issued a press release saying that the wreckage of a crashed disk had been recovered, but within a few hours the release was retracted, and a new release was issued saying that a crashed weather balloon had been mistaken for the wreckage of a flying saucer. For over half a century, people have debated whether the government has been covering up the crash of a flying saucer, or if it was the result of misunderstandings and wild imaginations.